

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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THE SECRETARY'S PAGE.

HELP AND HINTS IN SEASON.

Since the General Strike a surprising number of messages have reached us all to the same effect expressing the invigoration which the Local Parties have experienced as a result of the strike trouble. The Hammersmith result is but a symptom of the miraculous effect which the situation has had on the Labour forces in the country. It may be said that Labour's industrial forces were never at a higher pitch of effectiveness than they were three weeks ago and whatever may have happened since—and each Labour scribe expresses a different opinion—certain it is that the political side of the movement has benefited immeasurably as a result of all that has happened.

In saying this let us make clear at once that this claim is not made as a result of an assumption that there has been a *revulsion* from industrial action to political action, and that political Labour thus benefits at the expense of Labour's other arm. This we do not mean, nor are we among those who profess to believe that the strike method has been discredited once and for all. The time may come again when the strike weapon may be unsheathed and used with a dexterity and effect which experience has taught. But that time will not be yet, and in the meantime political action may prove our salvation. It is good, therefore, to record that even in the heyday of the strike hundreds of thousands of strikers had realised their error in past elections and had vowed to vote Labour next time. Political Labour has consequently benefited by its very alliance and association with the greatest industrial upheaval of all time. The strike created a unity it never lived to fully use—and which the political movement now inherits.

The problem confronting Local Parties at the present moment is in most places one of great difficulty. Ordinary income has diminished for the time being, while in those places where distress is felt most diminution might be spelt cessation. Campaigns for new

members have been interrupted, and in fact the whole machinery of Local Parties is for the moment out of gear. All this is happening at a time when everyone desires to be doing more, when there is an abundance of willingness to make fresh affiliations or to join the Party, and when calls are being made for the support of those down-and-out as a consequence of the struggle. We do not think, however, that there is an individual in the Party who would dream of his or her local unit slackening effort because of the difficulties we have enumerated. Local Parties would do well to face the issue clearly that the present is a time for exceptional measures. Affiliations if tendered might be accepted without the cash. The promise of new members can be accepted without the first subscription, and altogether there should be a realisation that the Party exists for to-morrow as well as to-day. In some places Local Parties will find themselves with a diminished income and heavy responsibilities in the shape of salaries. We do not believe that the right way to face this difficulty is by asking the paid servant to wait until brighter times. The better way is to approach the bank on behalf of the Party and secure an overdraft. In a few weeks the clouds will roll away, and in the meantime we want all hands to the pump for intensified propaganda and doubled work. Money difficulties mustn't stop in the way.

Quite a number of strike news sheets and typewritten bulletins of all descriptions have reached this office. It is evident that during the strike the "little paper with the punch" was the objective in many places. Alas, we did not quite succeed. Taken as a whole our little strike papers were a disappointment, though some were very fair and praiseworthy publications. We are not concerned with how far the publication of these papers coincided with the newspaper policy of the T.U.C., and we are therefore criticising

them on their merits or demerits. In almost all of them there was a flamboyant tendency inseparable perhaps from the temperaments of most demagogic writers. There was precious little attempt to cater for the public, and as amateurs ourselves we recognised amateurism in almost every sheet that was sent to us. This would not be a bad thing were it not that amateurism sometimes borders on thoughtlessness and recklessness, and whatever praise is due to those who worked so hard to issue a little Labour news sheet of some kind one cannot condone exaggeration or misstatements. These are two things which our amateur editors must guard against better in future. But perhaps if the hour strikes again Labour's publicity resources will be mobilised on a better plan.

We are repeatedly asked for advice concerning the appointment of an agent. The first thing for Local Parties to do when contemplating engaging an agent is to apply to the Head Office of the Party for particulars of the Party scheme. A Local Party engaging an agent under this scheme benefits by receiving the Party grant (at present £40 per annum). It is, of course, possible to appoint an agent outside the scheme and to do without the Party grant, but to do this is virtually a gross breach of faith and a want of loyalty to the Party, and sooner or later is likely to lead to unsatisfactory results.

The Party scheme provides for open competition in the appointment of agents, and we are asked why the advertising stipulated for is not always done. To this we must answer that there are in practice two kinds of vacancies. A normal vacancy must and ought to be filled in the way prescribed, but very occasionally there occurs in the natural growth of a Local Party a time when it becomes advisable to promote the then secretary or part-time agent to the status of full-time secretary or agent. In such cases public advertising obviously involves disappointment to the applicants who have no chance of being appointed, while it involves also a certain imaginable distress to the officer about to be promoted. It is very hard to lay down a general rule in such cases or to compare one case with another, but the explanation we have given

shows why in a few instances the stipulation for public advertisement has been waived.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Owing to the General Strike no issue of the Labour Organiser was made in May.

National Conference of Labour Women.

The National Conference of Labour Women which was to have been held at Huddersfield last week was postponed on account of the industrial dispute. It has now been decided to hold it on June 30th and July 1st. The private conference on Organisation will be held on June 29th. The place of the conference remains unaltered.

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THE AUTUMN REGISTER.

Persecution of "C.O.'s" Ends at Last.

The following circular has been issued by the Home Office to Registration Officers. Paragraphs 3 and 7 are both of prime importance, while the other contents are of special interest also:—

I am directed by the Secretary of State to refer to the subject of the preparation of the Autumn register for the current year.

Under the Economy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill of the present session it is intended that one register of electors only will in future be made each year, which will correspond to the present Autumn register except that the qualifying period will be the three months ending on 1st June; but this Bill will not affect the preparation of the Autumn register for the current year, though it provides that that register will continue in force for one year from the 15th October next instead of for six months.

It is desired to draw attention to certain matters in connection with the preparation of the register.

1. Registration Dates.—The qualifying period for the new Autumn register is the six months ending on 15th June, and the dates for the proceedings in its preparation will be the same as for the the Autumn register of last year. The Order in Council of 20th June, 1922 (R.P.116), as to the periods during which documents must be kept published and as to claims by out voters in County constituencies applies to the new register.

2. Electors Lists.—The electors lists will as heretofore consist of the current Spring register (List A), a list of newly qualified persons (List B) and a list of persons no longer qualified (List C).

3. House to House Inquiry.—A complete house to house inquiry is essential for the purpose of the proper preparations of the electors lists, and the Registration Officer should make the necessary arrangements to secure that such an inquiry is made throughout his registration area.

As on former occasions the Registration Officer will no doubt cause any assistants in the inquiry to be selected

so far as practicable from amongst persons out of work, especially ex-service men, wherever the services of suitable persons of this class are available.

4. Naval or Military Voters.—The procedure for the registration of naval or military voters followed in the case of the current Spring register will be the same for the new register. Under this procedure a person serving in His Majesty's Forces will be registered as a naval or military voter only in pursuance of his own statement of qualification, and any such person who is at present registered as a naval or military voter will continue to be registered for the *same qualifying address* unless he makes a statement of qualification for a new address and disclaims his present registration or claims on Form R.P.28 to be registered for an actual residence qualification. This procedure applies to all changes of qualifying address *including those within the same constituency.*

5. Absent Voters.—Reference should be made to the Home Office circular of 26th June, 1925, relating to the admission of persons to the absent voters list. It is suggested that in the case of all absent voters (not being naval or military voters) whose names are on the current absent voters list, it is desirable to verify in the course of the canvass not only that they are entitled to be registered for the same qualifying addresses but also continue to follow the same occupations. If so their names will be continued on the absent voters list for the new register without fresh claims in the form R.P.27.

6 Jurors.—As in the case of previous Autumn registers the names of electors who are qualified and liable to jury service should be duly marked in the electors lists, bearing in mind the requirement in Section 1 (6) of the Juries Act, 1922, that 14 days' notice must be given to any person of the intention to mark him as a juror if any claim by him not to be so marked has previously been allowed. Care should be taken that the notice as to the mode of making claims and objections includes the paragraphs (of which copies accompanied the circular of 15th May, 1923) explaining the effect of the jury marks.

7. Conscientious Objectors to Military Service.—The period of five years

during which, under the provision in Section 9 (2) of the Act of 1918 conscientious objectors to military service in certain cases were disqualified from being registered or voting as parliamentary or local government electors, expires on the 31st August next.

As the new Autumn register is prepared for the qualifying period ending on 15th June and the electors lists are published on the 15th July, whilst the register itself comes into force on 15th October, the question has been raised whether these persons are entitled to be registered in the Autumn register and the Secretary of State has thought it desirable to consult the Law Officers of the Crown on the legal position. He is now advised that those conscientious objectors who have the requisite six months residence or occupation during the six months ending on the 15th June will not be disqualified from being registered as parliamentary or local government electors, as the case may be, in the Autumn register this year, and the Registration Officer should therefore include their names in the electors lists. Care should be taken to instruct the overseers, canvassers and other persons engaged in the preparation of the lists that the statutory disqualification of conscientious objectors ceases to have effect for the purposes of the new register.

"The election is in charge of Windle, who, after my experience at Westminster, I swear to be the best agent in the country." Thus writes Fenner Brockway in the "New Leader" for the 28th May, writing before the result of Hammersmith was known. Mr. Brockway could hardly have added to this high and deserved tribute even had he the figures in his hands!

The "Daily Herald" notifies us that new and striking posters can be obtained by our readers who will undertake to display such on hoardings or at public meetings. While such an offer holds good the livening up of all Labour meetings by mural literature is possible, and should never be forgotten. The well-decorated hall is in fact an added psychological factor making for the success of any demonstration, and the "Herald" posters are mostly well-designed, pleasing and effective.

**Every Labour and Trade Union
Worker should read this book—**

POLITICAL ORGANISATION

By J. H. HILL.

CONTENTS :

Organisation and the Agent.
The Constitution.
The District Committee.
Street Captains.
The Divisional Executive Committee.
The Divisional Council.
The Central Office.
Public Meetings.
Finance.
Publicity.
Women.
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The Candidate.
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SOME REPORTS AND BALANCE SHEETS.

Regular readers of the "Labour Organiser" will expect that the annual report of the Woolwich Labour Party should again set a standard. In this they will not be mistaken for a wonderful work has been accomplished. The year 1925 was started with a paying individual membership of 3,595. During the year 1,738 new members joined the Party and 616 lapsed through various causes, the principal one being removal from the Borough. Thus there was a nett gain of 1,119 members, making a total of 4,714 actual paying individual members on the books at December 31st, 1925. The membership is now, we understand, over 5,000. In 1925 members subscriptions increased by £91 and totalled £715 10s. 6½d.—a record we believe for the whole country—apart of course from other collections and individual subscriptions of £388 6s. 8d. collected for election purposes. Altogether well over £2,000 has been raised by entirely local effort and the figures which appear in the balance sheet are nett figures, otherwise the total would have been much swollen.

The organisation of women at Woolwich is a story to be told to every Local Party throughout the country. The membership which was just over 2,000 at the end of the year is the largest in the country. Weekly meetings are held and the women render magnificent services in the general work of the Party. A great deal of social work is accomplished at Woolwich and the Women's Section is of course the genius in all this. Accompanying the printed statement of accounts is an interesting summary of members' subscriptions in each ward. The figures convey a lesson to those places which accomplish too much centralisation and fail to develop the ward spirit and the ward machinery as an ally in building the Local Party.

The accounts of the Swansea Labour Association show a total income from all sources of £5,384 14s. 5½d. which includes the sum of £542 8s. 1d. from affiliation fees, £508 raised by means of a football competition, £429 odd from whist drives and dances, £150 19s. 2d. from propaganda meetings,

and £2,193 15s. subscribed towards a Labour Home. These are highly satisfactory figures and we note that a full time agent has now been appointed—with, we should think, a very considerable responsibility to carry.

The annual report of the Stockton and Thornaby Labour Party is noteworthy for the disclosure it makes of the financial success of the local monthly, "The Tees Pioneer." In spite of the shocking industrial conditions in this part of the country the "Pioneer" shows a balance of assets over liabilities amounting to £45 9s. 9d. This is an achievement which many Labour local newspapers will envy and Mr. A. J. Thatcher the Party agent (office, 9 Wellington Street, Stockton-on-Tees) is to be congratulated on the success he has made of this paper.

The accounts of the Croydon Labour Party are accompanied by a summary of ward accounts which indicate that 12 out of 4 wards have a more or less substantial balance in hand. The total balances of sections, committees and wards reach £121 16s. 8d. What we have said above in commendation of this encouragement of ward responsibility equally applies here.

The Belper Division of Derbyshire is a noteworthy example of a Divisional Labour Party employing a full time agent without the assistance of any outside subsidy, and making an excellent success of the job. We could have expressed our point equally well by saying that this Division affords an excellent example of an energetic and capable agent making a success of Divisional finance; and the fact that the agent is a woman makes the performance all the more distinguished. The sum of £160 4s. contributed to an organising fund by the Local Labour Parties, Women Sections and the I.L.P. is the principal item of income and one which indicates a sound basis. There are other substantial items of the usual kind and the year closes with a balance in hand increased by £6. Agent, Mrs. Marie Lees, Sunny Bank Gardens, Gibfield Lane, Belper, Derbyshire.

A profit item of £106 5s. 7d. goes well to swell the total receipts of £410 15s. 10d. of the Aberavon D.L.P. Much devoted service has been put in by the local organising secretary, Coun. Joseph A. Brown and during the past year not the least of this was in connection with the gala and sports held during the year, the gross income of which amounted to £244 odd. As many other Parties are contemplating similar ventures we print the income and expenditure of this function in extenso as some guide to the requirements and organisation necessary:—

Income.		£	s.	d.
Subscriptions ... ..	...	61	8	0
Adverts ... ..	...	37	19	0
Sale of programmes ... ..	...	19	3	0
Admission at Gates ... ..	...	97	13	8
Enclosure Tickets ... ..	...	2	9	6
Ball Square and Bowling at Wicket ... ..	...	1	16	0
Weighing Machine and J.R.M.'s Photos ... ..	...	1	18	1
Sale of J.R.M. large photo	...	9	0	0
Skittles ... ..	...	1	15	0
Commission Agents ... ..	...	1	1	0
Putting Green Golf ... ..	...	2	14	6
Tennis ... ..	...	4	18	0
Bowls ... ..	...	4	17	0
Entrance fees, Competitors	...	9	13	0

Total Income 244 14 9

Expenses.

Tax Tickets ... ..	...	12	5	8
"Western Mail" advert. ...	...	1	7	6
"Glamorgan Gazette" advert	...	1	10	0
Port Talbot Prize Band ...	...	9	10	0
Hire of Port Talbot Park ...	...	7	6	10
Labour on Park ... ..	...	4	6	0
Prizes at sports ... ..	...	33	0	0
Claude the Juggler ... ..	...	1	0	0
William Santall refreshments	...	2	10	0
Jack Price, handicapper, Merthyr ... ..	...	2	0	0
Mr. Mayne, lime and whiting	...	18	9	0
Hire of Taxi ... ..	...	1	4	0
Hire of tent ... ..	...	5	0	0
Newark Lewis, photo blocks	...	1	10	0
Hire of 300 chairs at 2d. each	...	2	10	0
Hire of timber for pegs ...	...	5	0	0
Haulage of timber, chairs and ropes ... ..	...	1	15	0
Billposting ... ..	...	5	0	0
Printing ... ..	...	45	4	8
Secretary: Postages and expenses	6	0	9

Total expenditure 139 9 2

(continued on page 97.)

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LAW AND PRACTICE

[Under this heading are found brief and chatty explanations of points of commoner interest concerning the Law and Practice of Elections. Readers are invited to suggest points for notice herein, but are reminded that suggestions made may not necessarily be dealt with in the next issue.—Ed.]

THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF BANKRUPTCY.

A correspondent invites us to give a complete résumé of the political position and disqualifications attaching to a person who has become a bankrupt, particularly, he states, in order "that readers may know the position when an opponent meets with this misfortune."

Perhaps it is as well to remind our enquirer that bankruptcies are not confined to the ranks of opponents while the poor man's bankruptcy (i.e. an Administration Order for debts under £50) does in some respects confer greater disqualifications than normal bankruptcy proceedings.

The matter we are asked to explain is not one that receives a ready solution by reference to any of the text-books. The legislature has tinkered with the Bankruptcy Acts on many occasions in the same way that it has treated the franchise laws, and the resulting enactments provide no uniformity in the disqualifications for various offices.

There is no *franchise* disqualification consequent upon bankruptcy, or "failure" in any other form. Nor under the older franchises did bankruptcy necessarily disqualify for a vote, though obviously the consequences of bankruptcy would sooner or later involve the loss of qualification under those franchises, and hence the loss of the vote. The statutory political consequences of bankruptcy are confined to the holding of office and eligibility to be elected to same.

Taking the Parliamentary position first it is twice enacted that if a Member of the House of Commons is adjudged bankrupt, and the disqualifications arising from his bankruptcy are not removed within six months from the date of the order, the court shall immediately after the expiration of that time certify the same to the speaker of the House of Commons. What follows is that the seat becomes thereupon vacant.

By Section 32 of the Bankruptcy Act, 1883, "Where a debtor is adjudged bankrupt he shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, be disqualified for :

*** (b) Being elected to, or sitting or voting in, the House of Commons, or on any committee thereof;***

(2) The disqualifications to which a bankrupt is subject under this section shall be removed and cease if and when,—

(a) the adjudication of bankruptcy against him is annulled; or

(b) he obtains from the court his discharge with a certificate to the effect that his bankruptcy was caused by misfortune without any misconduct on his part.

The court may grant or withhold such certificate as it thinks fit, but any refusal of such certificate shall be subject to appeal.

(3) The disqualifications imposed by this section shall extend to all parts of the United Kingdom.

It will be seen from the above that only an adjudicated bankrupt is disqualified from Parliament, and there is six months' grace before the seat becomes vacant. In the case of a sitting Member even he apparently may exercise the privilege of voting in the interim unless a special resolution of the House of Commons prevents him doing so.

A person against whom a receiving order only has been made is not disqualified, nor is a person who has merely made a deed of arrangement with his creditors or in respect of whose estate an administration order has been made.

The indeterminable bar made by the Act above referred to was modified by an amending Act (Bankruptcy Act 1890) which says: "No disqualification arising by virtue of Section thirty-two of the principal Act shall exceed a period of five years from the date of any discharge which may have been, or may hereafter be, granted under and by virtue of the principal Act, or of this Act."

Coming to Municipal Elections a very much more extended barrage was enacted by the Municipal Corporations Act, 1872, Section 39 which reads :

(1) If the mayor, or an alderman or councillor is declared bankrupt, or compounds by deed with his creditors, or makes an arrangement or composition with his

creditors, under the Bankruptcy Act, 1869, by deed or otherwise; he shall thereupon immediately become disqualified and shall cease to hold office.

- (3) Where a person becomes so disqualified by being declared bankrupt or compounding, or making an arrangement or composition, as aforesaid, the disqualification, as regards subsequent elections, shall, in case of bankruptcy, cease on his obtaining his order of discharge, and shall, in case of a compounding or composition as aforesaid, cease on payment of his debts in full, and shall, in case of an arrangement as aforesaid, cease on his obtaining his certificate of discharge."

An obvious flaw in the above provisions was that they applied only to persons declared bankrupt while holding office, but the Bankruptcy Act of 1883 extended the disqualification "where a debtor is adjudged bankrupt," and he is expressly disqualified from "being elected to or holding or exercising the office of mayor, alderman or councillor."

It will thus be seen that a sitting Member becomes disqualified under the following circumstances:

- (1) If he is declared a bankrupt.
- (2) If he compounds by deed with his creditors.
- (3) If he makes an arrangement or composition under the Bankruptcy Acts.

But a candidate is disqualified only

- (1) If he has been adjudicated bankrupt.

As to when these disqualifications are removed, a sitting councillor can only again become qualified

- (1) If the bankruptcy has been annulled (i.e., quashed), or
- (2) If he obtain from the court his discharge with a certificate that his bankruptcy was caused by misfortune without misconduct on his part, or
- (3) When five years have passed from date of discharge—if without certificate as in (2), or
- (4) In case of compounding or composition, debts must be paid in full and/or a certificate of discharge obtained if under the Bankruptcy Acts.

The position of a candidate is again somewhat more favourable. If he

merely compounds by deed or under the Bankruptcy Acts before election, no disqualification is incurred. But if he has been declared bankrupt at any time, conditions 1, 2 or 3 above must be satisfied.

We now come to the group of elections known as the Spring elections, covering the elections for Rural and District Councils, Boards of Guardians and Parish Councils, and here the provision is:—

Local Government Act, 1894, Section 46 (1) "A person shall be disqualified for being elected or being a member or chairman of a council of a parish or of a district other than a borough or of a Board of Guardians if he has within or during the time aforesaid (e.g. 5 years) been adjudged bankrupt or made a composition or arrangement with his creditors."

Here in the latest Act we get something a good deal clearer than that which we have been explaining above, and this new wording is in harmony with what the older Acts attempted.

Sub-section 4 of Section 46 of the Local Government Act 1894 goes on to say "Where a person is disqualified by being adjudged bankrupt or making a composition or arrangement with his creditors, the disqualification shall cease, in case of bankruptcy when his adjudication is annulled, or when he obtains his discharge with a certificate that his bankruptcy was caused by misfortune without any misconduct on his part and in case of composition or arrangement on payment of his debts in full."

But it is precisely here—in the most extensive elections of the lot, and in those in which the working-class are most closely concerned—that a bias is thrown against the poor person availing himself of the cheaper forms of statutory relief for debtors. A candidate for Parliament (or an M.P.) may compound or have compounded and not be disqualified, a candidate for municipal honours may have done the same thing and not be disqualified, but in the case of the spring elections to have done so any time in the previous five years is fatal, and unlike bankruptcy—the privilege of the rich—this disqualification lasts for ever unless the debts are paid in full.

Of course it is the poor man, with his county court administration order, who suffers by this provision.

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YEAR

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1926.

BOOK

**FINE PROGRESS AT BOURNE-
MOUTH.**

Those Local Parties which were pioneers in the introduction of systematised weekly collections from their members are almost all of them now receiving their reward in an ample income and a virile membership. They are also obtaining many copyists—that sincerest form of flattery—and the "Labour Organiser" has contributed very largely to their number owing to the publicity which we have given to the enterprise of the collecting Local Labour Party from time to time.

Among the early starters was the Bournemouth Labour Party, and in an intrinsically difficult constituency wonderful progress has been made. The latest balance-sheet shows that the membership now reaches 1,212, and the scheme of weekly collections has resulted in over £200 being raised during the year. In 9 wards over 60 collectors, under responsible officials, are at work. Each unit of the Party is in a better condition than a year ago, as instance the Women's Section, whose members form the bulk of the collectors, and who are putting in splendid work

in all directions throughout the borough. The amount raised by the section for general purposes during the year was £70 and their membership is being added to weekly.

Thanks to the kindness of Mr. W. J. Hookey, of 17 Spurgeon Road, Bournemouth, the Hon. Organising Secretary of the Party, we are able to print the general outline of the scheme which is now being worked as follows:—

OUTLINE OF SCHEME.

"For the purpose of general organisation and the collection of membership fees, each ward shall appoint a voluntary organiser, who shall be responsible for securing a body of collectors, receiving all monies collected by them, and issue receipts for same, at the monthly meeting of ward collectors.

"The basis of the Party finance to be a subscription of one penny per week from the members, which shall be collected weekly or at such periods as may be most convenient to the members concerned. It shall, however, be recognised that those who so desire shall have the full rights of membership

on payment of the minimum subscription of one shilling per annum.

"The honorary organising secretary shall be responsible for supervising the work of the ward organisers and for convening a monthly meeting of the Organisation Committee, which shall consist of all ward secretaries and organisers and Party officials. At such meeting a report shall be given from each ward, showing the amount collected during the previous month, the number of members, collectors, and roads covered. The Financial Secretary of the Party shall attend the meeting and receive the amounts due from each ward. A report of each meeting shall be given at the next meeting of the Party Executive.

"The Organisation Committee shall be responsible for a card index of the membership, which shall be kept up-to-date through revised lists supplied by the ward organisers.

"The ward organisers shall arrange for the distribution of the 'Bournemouth Labour Quarterly' and other literature, and for the sale of tickets for Party fixtures when necessary.

"A meeting in the constituency shall be held every quarter, to be attended by the Parliamentary candidate, at which reports shall be given from each ward, difficulties discussed, and suggestions made for improving the organisation."

The following is a specimen of a circular which is distributed door to door by the collectors:—

BOURNEMOUTH LABOUR PARTY.

17 Spurgeon Road,
Bournemouth, Jan., 1925.

To the Electors of Boscombe East Ward.

At the recent Parliamentary Election 7,735 votes were cast for our candidate (Miss Minnie Pallister).

We are desirous of getting into personal touch with these supporters, and with this end in view, we appeal to you not only to join our movement, but give your active support.

ONE PENNY PER WEEK

will, not only make you a member of the Labour Party, but will also build up a Fighting Fund in preparation for the next election, when we hope that Miss Pallister will again be our candidate.

An official collector will call on you shortly and contributions can be paid weekly or otherwise, at your convenience.

Yours faithfully,
(Mrs.) A. E. HOOKEY,
Ward Secretary.

And to illustrate that no scheme is complete which depends merely on collectorship, we reproduce the monthly report form which is in use. It cannot be too strongly emphasised here that the success of every scheme depends on proper supervision and co-ordination of effort involving regular reports and adequate returns. Simple as this report form may be its neglect may involve disaster to the best thought-out scheme.

BOURNEMOUTH LABOUR PARTY.

Report Sheet for October, 1925.

Ward
No. of new members during the month
No. of lapsed members during the month
Present Membership
Amount collected during the month
(a) General Fund
(b) Building Fund
No. of collectors
No. of roads covered
..... Ward Organiser.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Voting in More Than One Parish.

Question. Will you please tell me if electors at Rural District Council elections who have qualifications in more than one parish in the same rural district can vote, being on the Local Government register for more than one parish?

Answer. The answer is in the negative. By Section 48 (2) of the Local Government Act, 1894, it was provided that Rules should be framed by the Local Government Board (now the Home Office) to provide amongst other things "for preventing an elector at an election for a Union or for a District not a Borough from subscribing a nomination paper *or voting* in more than one parish or other area in the Union or District"; and "for preventing an elector at an election for a parish divided into parish wards from subscribing a nomination paper *or voting* for more than one ward."

Rules were accordingly framed and the full titles of the appropriate Rules are to be found on page 26 of the "Labour Organiser" for February, 1926. The appropriate provision to answer our question is to be found in The Rural District Council's Election Order, 1898, and is as follows. Similar provisions are embodied in the Rules for the other elections:—

18.—(1) An elector shall not vote in more than one Parish in the District.

(2) The Presiding Officer may, and if required by any parochial elector of the Parish, or any polling agent appointed under Rule 17, shall, put to any elector at the time of his applying for a ballot paper, but not afterwards, the following questions, or one of them, and no other:—

(a) Are you the person entered in the parochial register for this Parish (or Ward) as follows (read the whole entry from the register)?

(b) Have you already voted at the present election of Rural District Councillors in this or any other Parish or Ward in the Rural District of ———?

3. A person required to answer either of these questions shall not receive a ballot paper or be permitted to vote until he has answered it."

We may add that in so far as Municipal Boroughs are concerned Section

51 of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882 provides—

(2) "No person shall subscribe a nomination paper in or for more than one ward *or vote in* more than one ward."

Courtesy Notices to Party Agents.

Question. I want your advice as to what steps you would take in a Rural District of over 100 sq. miles where triennial and by-elections are pending and where the clerk to the District Council refuses to send to the agent notices of nominations or notices of poll on the grounds of principle. The clerk's office has for some years extended to me this facility and in two other districts there is never any demur. Yet the clerk in this one district suddenly informs me that he won't send these notices on principle.

Answer. We are afraid our friend is in a difficult position from which to bring pressure to bear upon the obdurate officer when he mentions. The Returning Officer is in fact quite within his rights in refusing to observe the customary courtesies to political agents. We presume there is no question of this gentleman's "principle" being applied to only one political Party, and if he chooses to plead that he is under no obligation to do other than publicly post the requisite notices as laid down by Rule 30 of the General Order there is, we think, little remedy.

Our correspondent suggests that if the clerk still refuses (the Returning Officer is of course the clerk to the U.D.C.) it might be possible for the Labour Councillors to move a resolution at a council meeting instructing the clerk. We are afraid that this would not be helpful. It is our opinion that in exercising the statutory functions of Returning Officer the clerk is not under the jurisdiction of the District Council and all things considered it is well this is so. The only practical course is to get into league with the opposing Parties and continue persuasion with the clerk. The custom of other places in the area should prove an argument.

Publishing a Local Paper.

Question. I am desirous of receiving your advice on the publication of a local Labour paper. We have in opera-

tion the Barrow-in-Furness collecting scheme which, although working only nine months, has given excellent results. In the six wards in the city there are now approximately 600 members. I want to know whether you consider such a membership would justify us in launching out with a weekly paper if all members agreed to take it, and further what would the approximate cost of such a business entail?

Answer. There is not the slightest doubt that 600 members *could* embark upon and maintain a little paper of some description, but obviously everything depends upon the quality and spirit of the membership itself. Have these 600 members a sufficient backbone of live, enterprising, hard working, and sacrificing persons, with some knowledge of the task in front of them, and a willingness to face it? We cannot answer the first part of our correspondent's question in definite terms, because so much depends on our query.

And what sort of a weekly paper has our correspondent got in mind? One may sink a mint of money in a too ambitious venture, and on the other hand given the right spirit, and a certain amount of knowledge, a small paper may be begun on practically nothing. The curse of most Labour newspaper enterprises has been the enthusiasm of the few, untempered by a practical knowledge of how to conduct a paper or an appreciation of the difficulties and business requirements of such an enterprise. We should advise our correspondent to hesitate a long while before rashly embarking on even a modest *weekly* paper. Months of preparatory work are first necessary, and the enlistment of quite a number of willing workers in the enterprise.

It is a far more simple task to begin with a monthly newspaper. Indeed we would say that the establishment of a weekly paper should only be attempted in the strongest centres and after much preparation. Where a monthly paper has been run a certain degree of experience and business goodwill will have been secured and the task may be easier.

Our correspondent, in asking for an approximate cost, gives no indication of either size or quantities. The requirements are so varied that we cannot attempt an answer in respect of a weekly paper. A monthly news sheet, crown folio, four pages, three-quarter matter

and a quarter advertising may cost from £1 to 30/- per thousand according to quantity ordered. The same figures may be quoted for a demy folio news sheet, though this would be larger and tend toward the higher price. The Labour Party can give quotations for either a weekly or a monthly basis for a newspaper supplied, we believe, either part printed or wholly printed. The printers of this journal also offer an attractive proposition.

Another source of supply offers standardised pages for Local Labour newspapers, viz., an 8 page publication printed four pages only, the remainder being left for local setting. The cost is 35/- per thousand (30/- on quantities over 3,000). To this of course must be added the cost of local matter and printing of same.

Commission to Collectors.

Question. I should be glad to know if you advise the payment of commission to collectors taking the weekly or monthly subscriptions of members under the new collecting scheme. Our Party is much divided over the matter?

Answer. The question our friend puts is one that cannot be decided on general principles. It is an axiom of sound organisation that the very maximum of voluntary effort should always be secured and the too ready offer of pecuniary recompense is apt to blunt enthusiasm and the higher promptings which lead to the best work. On the other hand there is no moral bar or sound objection to the expedient of payment where and when this becomes necessary for particular services. Paid secretaries and agents are already an accepted and necessary part of Labour Party functioning, and in other sections of the movement the payment of necessary service is made without demur.

We ourselves look forward to the time when it will be no exceptional thing to find Labour Party paying membership reaching several thousands in any constituency. There will then be a problem both in book-keeping and collection which may not be satisfactorily solved by voluntary work. In the meantime each proposal for the appointment of paid collectors should be considered on its merits and the tendency should be to resort only to this expedient when the task has got beyond what may be reasonably expected of volunteers.

ELECTIONS IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

Retford's parliamentary history is well worth a passing allusion. Since 1885 the township has been merged in the county division of Bassetlaw. But for about five centuries East Retford had the right to send two members to Parliament, though from 1330 to 1571 the privilege was not exercised by the freemen, who wished to escape the obligation of supporting their burgesses. The franchise was restricted to "such freemen only as have a right to their freedom by birth, as eldest sons of freemen, or by serving seven years' apprenticeship, or have it by redemption, whether inhabiting or not inhabiting at the time of their being made free." It is not surprising, therefore, that East Retford was a corrupt borough, and the established custom in the eighteenth century was for those who voted for the two successful candidates to receive 40 guineas. The last election under the old system took place in 1826, when the result of the poll, after tumultuous scenes, which led to the military being summoned, was declared as follows:—

Mr. W. B. Wrightson ...	120
Sir Robt. Dundas ...	118
Sir H. W. Wilson ...	53

Sir Henry Wilson petitioned, and the Parliamentary Committee—for at that time election petitions were heard not by Petition Judges, as at present, but by a Parliamentary Committee appointed for the purpose—reported that the two successful candidates had been guilty of treating, and, therefore were not duly elected. Thereupon Mr. Tennyson introduced a Bill to disfranchise East Retford and transfer its two representatives to the town of Birmingham, which had no member, while Mr. Nicholson Calvert moved a counter-proposition that East Retford should retain its representation, and bribery and corruption be prevented in future by extending the franchise to the 40s. freeholders of the Hundred of Bassetlaw. This latter proposal was eventually carried by a majority of 18, and so, from 1828 to 1885, the enlarged constituency of East Retford continued to send its two members to Parliament.

The debates in both Houses of Parliament on the East Retford petition make amusing reading. It was stated in evidence, and not denied, that packets of money were left at the houses of voters at dead of night by unknown and

mysterious messengers. Ninety-seven such packets were said to have been traced, and the friends of East Retford triumphantly pointed to the fact that even on the worst computation there was a large majority of pure or corrupt electors, whereas in other rotten boroughs, such as Shoreham, Cricklade, Aylesbury, and Grampound, which had been the subject of Disenfranchisement Bills, the majorities had been the other way. One of the chief witnesses had bolted from the town without paying his ale-house bills; another was proved to have made a will for a man in a lunatic asylum. Perhaps the most candid utterance on the subject was made by a member of the House of Lords, who put the matter thus:—

"Now, my lords, as to the amount of this corruption—suppose that those persons did receive twenty or forty guineas each, and that £3,000 or £4,000 was distributed amongst them, I say it is as a drop of water in the ocean, compared with the sums spent in elections. Mr. Evans himself tells us, that he spent £17,000 at Leicester; and it is pretty well known that at the last election for Northumberland £140,000 was spent, not in legal expenses only, but in treating and other illegal inducements to voting.

At my own election in the county of Durham, I had to spend about £30,000; and a noble friend of mine, a noble marquis opposite, must have spent a great deal more. At the election for Yorkshire in 1826, although there was no contest, £100,000 was spent by the four candidates—a fact which was mentioned in the other House of Parliament by one of the members. In the election of 1806 for the same county, Lord Milton spent £100,000; another party £90,000; and the committee who acted for Mr. Wilberforce, £60,000; indeed, the expenses of even an uncontested election for Yorkshire are so notorious, that there is at this moment the greatest difficulty to find members to represent it; and I believe that, except one of the present members, and a gentleman little known to the freeholders of the county, no other individuals have declared themselves candidates for the expensive honour of representing it. In fact, with the exception of Westminster, there is hardly a place in England where it is not necessary for a candidate who seriously intends to succeed, to spend a considerable sum of money. Whatever

the theory of the representation may be, it has in practice come to this, that either directly or indirectly, covertly or openly, every man comes into Parliament by a breach of the law."

That, indeed, was the simple truth, and when the market price of a seat in the House of Commons was £1,800 a year, when the freehold of a borough like Gattton was actually bought for £180,000, and the practice of creating fictitious votes and qualifications on the day of election was notorious, there was no room for one party to throw stones at the other. The whole system was rotten to the core and cried aloud for reform.

Here is Gladstone's own account of the way he spent a day while conducting his canvass at Newark:—

"We started on canvass at 8 in the morning and worked at it for about 9 hours, with a great crowd, band and flags and innumerable glasses of beer and wine all jumbled together; then a dinner of 30 or 40 with speeches and songs until say 10 o'clock; then we all played a rubber of whist, and about 12 or 1 I got to bed but not to

sleep, for never in my life did I undergo any excitement to be compared to it. My account of the day is faithful, except that I have omitted a public-house tour of speaking to the Red clubs, with which I often had to top up after the dinner and before the whist."

Mr. Gladstone was no worse for the experience and he came out handsomely at the top of the poll. A relic of that bygone election, which first gave him a seat in the House of Commons, is treasured at the Newark Museum. It is a faded silk banner bearing the words, "Gladstone and the Conservative Cause." From "*Highways and Byeways in Nottinghamshire*."

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REVIEWS.

"From Nursery School to University."

Paper cover, 6d.; post free, 8d. Cloth, 1/-; post free, 1/2. The Labour Publication Department, 33 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

The Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party have now ready a new booklet, entitled "From Nursery School to University," which is a full and authoritative statement of Labour's education policy. Included in the contents are chapters dealing with the Provision of Nursery Schools, Limits of Elementary Education, Raising of the School Age and Need for Maintenance, Secondary Education for All, Access to the University, Technical Education, The Small Rural School, Research, Modern Tendencies, Size of Classes: Recognition of Unqualified Teachers, Training of Teachers, School Buildings and Equipment, Medical Inspection and Treatment, Special Schools, School Feeding, and Problems of Finance.

In a Foreword, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., writes: "In these chapters the whole field from nursery schools to universities is surveyed from the Labour point of view, and the book is published not only to explain what that point of view is, but to put before the public ideas that it is hoped will influence general opinion."

"Education for Emancipation."

32 pp., 3d. post free. N.C.L.C., 62 Hanover Street, Edinburgh.

"Education for Emancipation" is the title of the new booklet describing the work of the National Council of Labour Colleges. The N.C.L.C. conducts all types of working-class educational work in Ireland, especially in the Belfast area.

According to the booklet, the number of Unions with N.C.L.C. educational schemes of all types was nine in 1923. By 1925, the number of Unions had risen to 28, representing a combined membership of 1,750,000. During 1925, a remarkable development took place in the N.C.L.C.'s Correspondence Department, which not only materially increased the subjects taught by post, but doubled the number of students, the figure being 1,156. During the same year, the N.C.L.C. ran 1,048 classes with 25,071 students. Altogether about 60,000 students must have participated in the N.C.L.C.'s educational work in the course of the twelve months.

VOTING AT THE "WRONG" STATIONS.

A correspondent who has had some experience of work as a personation agent asks if we will make clear the different persons who may be admitted to vote at a polling station other than that for which they are registered. Our correspondent asks for specific authorities in support of the answer given, and we have therefore gone to some pains to give particulars embracing the various sections of voters involved. We have, however, excluded mention of proxy voters and men entitled to vote in a second constituency at a Parliamentary Election as we assume these to be outside the scope of our friend's enquiry.

In the first place then we had better make it clear that any person who resides outside the polling district in which he is entitled to be registered can make a claim to be registered at another polling place within the same constituency. The provision is as follows, and is to be found in Rule 24 of the Registration Rules embodied in the First Schedule to The Representation of the People Act, 1918.

"Any person whose name shall appear in the list of parliamentary voters of any registration unit in any county constituency or district of boroughs, and who resides outside the polling district in which he is entitled to be registered, shall be at liberty to make his claim before the registration officer to vote at any polling place within the same constituency.

"Any such person shall be admitted to vote at such polling place accordingly."

Persons employed by the Returning Officer are a well-known class to vote in the "wrong" polling place, and this matter is regulated by Section 24 of the above-named Act which reads as follows:

"Where an elector for any constituency (other than a university constituency) is employed by the returning officer for that constituency for any purpose in connection with an election for that constituency, and the circumstances of that elector's employment are, in the opinion of the returning officer, such as to prevent him from voting at the polling station at which the elector would otherwise be entitled to vote, the returning officer may authorise the elector, by

a certificate given in the prescribed form, to vote at any other polling station in the constituency, and that polling station shall, for the purpose of Rule 18 of Part 1 of the First Schedule to the Ballot Act, 1872, be deemed to be the polling station allotted to that elector."

Perhaps we may as well mention here that the Returning Officer himself under Section 2 of the Ballot Act, 1872, may exercise a vote actually after the poll is closed and in the counting room itself provided an equality of votes is found to exist, and that he the Returning Officer is a registered elector for the constituency.

We will give the position of policemen next. Formerly prohibited from voting and even now prohibited from attempting by word, message, writing, or in any other manner to influence voters in giving their votes at elections, policemen may now exercise their own franchise under special privileges similar to the employees of the Returning Officer. We quote below 50 and 51 Vic. C. 9 which contains the permissive provision:—

1. The enactments mentioned in the schedule to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent mentioned in the third column of the said schedule. (These Acts imposed disabilities to vote upon police constables and others.)

2. Where a constable is or is likely to be, on the day of any election, sent or employed in the discharge of his duty so as to prevent him voting at the polling booth or station at which he would otherwise be entitled by law to vote, the following enactments shall have effect.

(1) Such constable may, at any time within seven days before the election, apply to the chief constable for a certificate, and the chief constable shall thereupon give a certificate under his hand, stating the name of the constable, his number in the police force, his number and description on the register of voters, and the fact that he is so sent or employed; (a)

(2) The presiding officer at any polling booth or station shall, on production by such constable of the said certificate, allow him to vote at that booth or station, and shall forthwith cancel the said certificate, and deal with the same in like

manner as the counterfoils of voting papers are directed by law to be dealt with;

(3) No such constable shall, under this section, be entitled to vote at any election at which he would not, but for this section, be entitled to vote, nor more than once in any election, and if he so votes, or attempts to vote, he shall be subject to all the penalties imposed by law on a person personating or attempting to personate a voter at such election;

(4) In this section,—

(a) "Constable" includes any person belonging to a police force;

(b) "Chief constable" includes an assistant commissioner of police, a head constable, and any other person for the time being in command of a police force, or acting in that capacity;

(c) "Register of voters" has the same meaning as in the Ballot Act, 1872.

4. Section nine of the Act, nineteen and twenty Victoria, chapter two, shall be read and construed as if for the word "therein" were substituted the words "in certain elections of members to serve in Parliament."

5. Provided always, that this Act shall not operate to extend the benefit of the eighth section of the Corrupt Practices Prevention Act, 1854, to any person becoming entitled to vote by virtue of this Act.

Finally there remains the question of a person who has been permitted to vote at the wrong station by error on the part of the Returning Officer. Such cases have occurred before, but according to the latest rulings such votes would be disallowed on petition.

(continued from page 87.)

We have received a number of other balance sheets but regret that considerations of space compels us to forego individual mention. Unfortunately, in a number of cases, the total individual membership is omitted from reports given, and other important features of report and account are dropped. Those who have followed our reviews in this and other issues will have noted the points which strike us as vital. Membership statistics are vital considerations in these matters.

LOCAL LABOUR PARTY RULES.

Following the promise in our September 1925 issue to reprint on suitable occasions the rules of certain Local Labour Parties we here have pleasure in reproducing those of the Durham Divisional Labour Party. It will be noted that most of the Model Rules have been rounded off, and made expressly applicable to local conditions.

DURHAM DIVISIONAL LABOUR PARTY.

RULES AND CONSTITUTION.

1.—*Title or Name.*

The Party shall be known as the "Durham Divisional Labour Party." It shall be affiliated to the National Labour Party and the Durham County Federation of Divisional Labour Parties.

2.—*Membership.*

The Party shall consist of Local Labour Parties and District Committees throughout the constituency in those areas which meet with the approval of the Executive Committee. They shall be composed of organisations eligible for affiliation to the Party; also individuals (men and women) willing to work for the objects and subscribe to the Constitution and Programme of the Labour Party, and who, if eligible for trade union membership, are trade unionists. Where no Local Labour Party exists, organisations may affiliate direct.

3.—*Objects.*

(a) To unite the forces of Labour within the Parliamentary Division of Durham, in order to secure the election of Labour Representatives on all National and Local Governing bodies, and to watch over the interests of Labour generally throughout the Division.

(b) To raise funds by contributions and donations to carry into effect the above objects.

4.—*Management.*

The management of the Party shall be in the hands of a General Council, which shall consist of:—

(a) Representatives of the Local Labour Parties, and District Committees.

(b) Representatives of the affiliated organisations.

(c) Members of the Executive Committee, who shall each have one vote.

The basis of representation on the General Council shall be one delegate for every 50 members or part thereof.

The voting strength shall be one vote

for every 500 members or part thereof up to six votes.

5.—*Contributions.*

Contributions shall be paid quarterly. Quarters to end on the last day in June, September, December, and March. Trades unions shall contribute the sum of one halfpenny per member per quarter.

Co-operative Societies, £1/1/- per annum.

Trades Councils, 10/- per annum.

Socialist Societies, 10/- per annum.

Individual Members—

Men, minimum of 1/- per annum.

Women, minimum of 6d. per annum.

The minimum fee for any organisation shall be 10/- per annum. Fifty per cent. of all contributions raised shall be for the Central Fund for Divisional purposes.

Only those branches which are financial shall be entitled to vote, and whose contributions appear on the balance sheet. Voting may be by show of hands, but a card vote must be taken when demanded on basis laid down in Rule 4.

6.—*Officers and Executive Committee.*

There shall be a Divisional Executive Committee comprising:—

(a) The Officers, President, Vice-Presidents (3), Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Secretary.

(b) The Secretary of each Local Labour Party and Polling District Committee, with two additional ones from Durham City and Hetton.

(c) Six women.

(d) These, including the officers and two Auditors, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting.

(e) The duties of the Executive shall include the preparation of all agendas for Conference. Resolutions for Conference Agenda must be sent to the Secretary at least 28 days previous to any Conference.

The duties of the Officers shall be:—

President—To preside at all General and Committee Meetings and sign all minutes after confirmation.

Vice-Presidents—In the absence of the President his duties shall be taken over by one of the Vice-Presidents in order of seniority.

Treasurer—The Treasurer shall keep an account of all monies received and prepare an annual balance sheet. All monies received shall be deposited in the Bank. All cheques shall be signed

by the Chairman or Financial Secretary and the Treasurer.

Financial Secretary—The Financial Secretary shall collect and keep a correct record of all contributions of affiliated Societies and individual members and shall pay over to the Treasurer monthly all monies received by him. He shall be jointly responsible with the Treasurer for the issue of the balance sheet.

Secretary—The Secretary shall be present at and record minutes of all General and Committee Meetings. He shall conduct all correspondence and prepare an Annual Report. He shall endeavour to obtain a complete record of all affiliated Societies. He shall receive such remuneration as may be decided upon by the Divisional Executive Committee.

7.—*Polling District Committees.*

The Polling District Committees shall include all members of affiliated Branches and individual members resident or having a place of business within the area. They shall appoint their own officers, consisting of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Auditors, submit to the Divisional Executive a financial statement annually, undertake the work of maintaining the necessary machinery for carrying on any election within their areas, assist in the work of registration, and with the approval of the Divisional Executive, shall arrange for propaganda work.

8.—*Local Labour Parties.*

Local Labour Parties shall consist of representatives from affiliated Trades Union Branches, Socialist Societies, Co-operative Societies, Polling District Committees, and also representatives from the individual men and women, willing to work for the objects and conform to the constitution and standing orders of the Labour Party, and who, if eligible for trade union membership, are trade unionists.

9.—*Annual and General Meetings.*

The Annual and General Council Meetings shall be held at such places as the Executive Committee may from time to time decide, and at least two General Council Meetings shall be held each year. The Annual Meeting to be in April or May.

10.—*Parliamentary Candidates.*

The normal procedure with regard to a Parliamentary Candidate will, when there is no special urgency, be as under :—

(a) The desirability of contesting the constituency shall first be considered by the Divisional Executive Committee, in consultation with the National Executive and the Party Officers.

(b) If it is thought expedient to contest the constituency the matter shall be, unless time does not permit, brought before the General Council, with a view to nominations being invited.

(c) The representatives of any affiliated organisation or the Individual Section—and also the Divisional Executive Committee itself—may nominate any person for consideration as Parliamentary candidate, subject (1) to having obtained such person's consent; (2) in the case of nomination on behalf of any organisation, to having obtained the sanction of the Executive Committee thereof.

(d) The nominations so made shall be laid before a specially summoned meeting of the General Council to determine which person, if any, shall be recommended to the National Executive for approval as the "Labour Candidate."

(e) When no nominations are made, or where time does not permit of formal procedure, the National Executive may take steps, in consultation with the Divisional Executive, to secure the nomination of a Parliamentary Candidate where this is deemed advisable. Every candidate must undertake to stand as "Labour Candidate," independent of all other political parties.

11.—*Local Candidates.*

Candidates of the Party for Local Elections are to be nominated to the Polling District Committees or Local Labour Parties (and where no Polling District Committee or Local Labour Party exists, to the Divisional Executive) by affiliated societies or by the Individual Section, and shall, before standing, receive the endorsement of such society. The Polling District Committee, Local Labour Party, or the Divisional Executive, as the case may be, shall have power to refuse such endorsement if it thinks fit, and may itself nominate a candidate when no other nomination has been made. In case of a dispute where the Local Labour Party or District Committee fails to agree the matter shall be submitted to the Divisional Executive for final settlement. Every candidate must undertake to stand as a "Labour Candidate" independent of all other political parties.

Candidates, if elected, shall serve as members of the Labour Group of the Council to which they have been elected, and continue to be amenable to the decisions of such group. No person shall be a member of the Labour Group who has in any way opposed the return of the accredited nominee of the Party. Any candidate who violates the programme, policy, or constitution, shall be repudiated by the Party and affiliated societies shall agree not to give their support in any way to such candidate. Any person opposing the return of the accredited nominee of the Party shall thereby cease to be a member of the Labour Party until reinstated by the Divisional Executive.

Candidates, before being endorsed by the Divisional Executive, will be required to sign the following statement, viz. :—

"I am prepared to run as a Labour Candidate, and, if elected, shall join the Labour Group and act for and with them on all matters of principle, and conform to the policy of the Labour Party, and further I shall support the Labour Candidate for the Parliamentary Division.

12.—*Delegates' Qualifications.*

(a) No person shall be allowed to sit as a delegate who is a member of, or in any way connected with, a political organisation which is not eligible for affiliation to the Labour Party.

(b) That should a delegate appear on any other political party's platform, or become connected with such political party he shall cease to be a delegate, and the organisation he represents be requested to appoint another in his place, provided that the Committee shall decide in all cases whether such rule has been infringed.

(c) Credentials of delegates may be examined before the commencement of each General Council.

(d) Members of affiliated organisations claiming exemption from political contributions under the Trades Union Act, 1913, shall not be entitled to act as delegates.

(e) Every person nominated to serve as a delegate shall individually accept the constitution and principles of the Labour Party.

13.—*Labour Party Candidates.*

At meetings organised by the Party, only the claims of Labour Party Candidates shall be advocated.

14.—*National Labour Party.*

The General Provisions of the National Labour Party as stated in the Constitution and Standing Orders shall apply to this organisation. This shall include the payment of affiliation fees, election of delegates to the Party Conference, nominations for the Executive, etc., and resolutions and amendments for the Conference Agenda.

15.—*Alteration of Rules.*

These Rules can only be altered by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at the Annual Meeting. Two months' notice of proposed alterations must be given in writing to the Secretary.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements under this heading are inserted at the special rate of twenty-four words for 2s., and 6d. for each additional six words, or less. Cash must accompany order. Three insertions are charged at the rate of two-and-a-half. Displayed advertisements, prepaid, are charged 4s. per inch, with special discount for a series.

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We are asked to announce that Mr. W. Miles, whose original and inimitable assumption of the role of Henry Dubbs has delighted many audiences, is now unable to accept more than occasional engagements. Mr. Miles has accepted the Labour agency in Kennington where the Labour candidate, is Lt.-Col. T. S. B. Williams.